

CLAIMS

1. In a telecommunications network, a route object (RO) computer program product, comprising means for creating a RO which presents a user with editable fields relating to more than one type of RO, and allows the user to specify the contents of one or more of the fields to create any one of the types of RO.
2. A RO computer program product according to claim 1 which presents one or more editable fields relating to a type of route defined by a RO.
3. A RO computer program product according to claim 1 or claim 2 which presents one or more editable fields relating to at least one network element (NE) of a route through the telecommunications network defined by a RO.
4. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim in which each type of RO comprises one or more hops, and the RO computer program product presents one or more editable fields relating to at least one hop of a RO.
5. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim in which, when the user specifies the contents of one or more editable fields, the field or fields specified and/or the contents specified are used

by the RO computer program product to determine which subsequent editable field or fields presented to the user.

6. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim in which, when the user specifies the contents of one or more editable fields, the field or fields specified and/or the contents specified are used by the RO computer program product to determine one or more default settings of one or more subsequent editable fields presented to the user.
7. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim which comprises means for modifying one or more ROs.
8. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim which comprises means for copying one or more ROs.
9. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim which comprises means for storing one or more ROs in a storage facility.
10. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim which comprises means for deleting one or more ROs.
11. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim which comprise means for discovering one or more ROs.

12. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim which comprise means for discovering changes in the telecommunications network.
13. A RO computer program product according to any preceding claim which comprise means for interfacing with the user.
14. A RO computer program product according to claim 13 in which the means for interfacing presents the same interface to the user regardless of the type of RO to be created.
15. A RO computer program product according to claim 13 or claim 14 in which the means for interfacing comprises a GUI which presents one or more windows to the user, to allow the user to create a RO.
16. A RO computer program product according to claim 15 in which the GUI presents a NE listing window to the user which comprises a NE context menu having a create RO menu item which brings up a window comprising a RO creation dialog box, which comprises one or more editable fields relating to more than one type of RO and the user specifies the contents of one or more of the fields to create any one of the types of RO.

17. A RO computer program product according to claim 15 or claim 16 in which a RO being created comprises one or more hops, and a hop is added to the RO using a window comprising a hop creation dialog box, which comprises one or more editable fields relating to more than one type of hop and the user specifies the contents of one or more of the fields to create any one of the types of hop.
18. A RO computer program product according to any of claims 15 to 17 in which the RO being created comprises a group RO, and the GUI presents a NE listing window to the user which comprises a NE context menu having a create group RO menu item which brings up a window comprising a group RO creation dialog box, which comprises one or more editable fields relating to more than one type of group RO and the user specifies the contents of one or more of the fields to create any one of the types of group RO.
19. A method of creating a route object (RO), comprising:
running the RO computer program product according to any of claims 1 to 18 which presents editable fields relating to more than one type of RO,
and
specifying the contents of one or more of the fields to create any one of the types of RO.
20. A network management system (NMS) comprising:

the RO computer program product according to any of claims 1 to 18.

21. A method of setting up a connection of a telecommunications network, comprising
using a RO created using the RO computer program product according to any of claims 1 to 18.